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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

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DATE: October 28, 1968
TIME: 5:45 p.m.
PLACE: Ambassador Wiggins' Office
USUN
SUBJECT: The Non-Proliferation Treaty

PARTICIPANTS: USUN
Ambassador Wiggins
Ambassador Buffum
Brady G. Barr, Adviser

Soviet
Ambassador V. S. Semenov,
Deputy Minister for Foreign
Affairs
Ambassador Semenov's
interpreter

Part I of II

COPIES TO: ACDA
US Mission Geneva
IO/UNP

Amembassy Moscow
Amembassy New Delhi
USUN - Mr. Neidle

Ambassador Semenov said that the NPT is creating a favorable atmosphere at the UN, and suggested that the US and the USSR should make parallel efforts to encourage more countries to sign.

Ambassador Wiggins said that we are encouraging other countries to sign the treaty, and that we expect our Senate to ratify the treaty just after the elections or after the first of the year. He noted that, logically or not, events in Czechoslovakia affected the climate for ratification in the US Senate. We are concerned about the Indian position, since it influences the Pakistanis and others.

Semenov said that he could not agree that NPT is less important because international tensions are increasing. To the contrary, it is more important now than before. During the recent visit

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U.S DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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of the Indian Defense Minister to Moscow, Soviet leaders attempted to influence him to sign the treaty. Perhaps the holdouts will find it harder to defend their positions as more countries sign. Also, it is expected that the non-nuclear states will want some kind of second meeting next year, and it would be useful to move things in a favorable direction in the meantime. In addition to NPT (which is most important), useful cooperation between the US and USSR can be effected in the area of Sea Beds and other disarmament items. Ambassador Malik plans shortly to discuss with Ambassador Wiggins the Soviet Memorandum on halting the arms race. Both countries should pursue attainable measures of relaxation as a matter of priority.

Clearance: Ambassador Wiggins

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